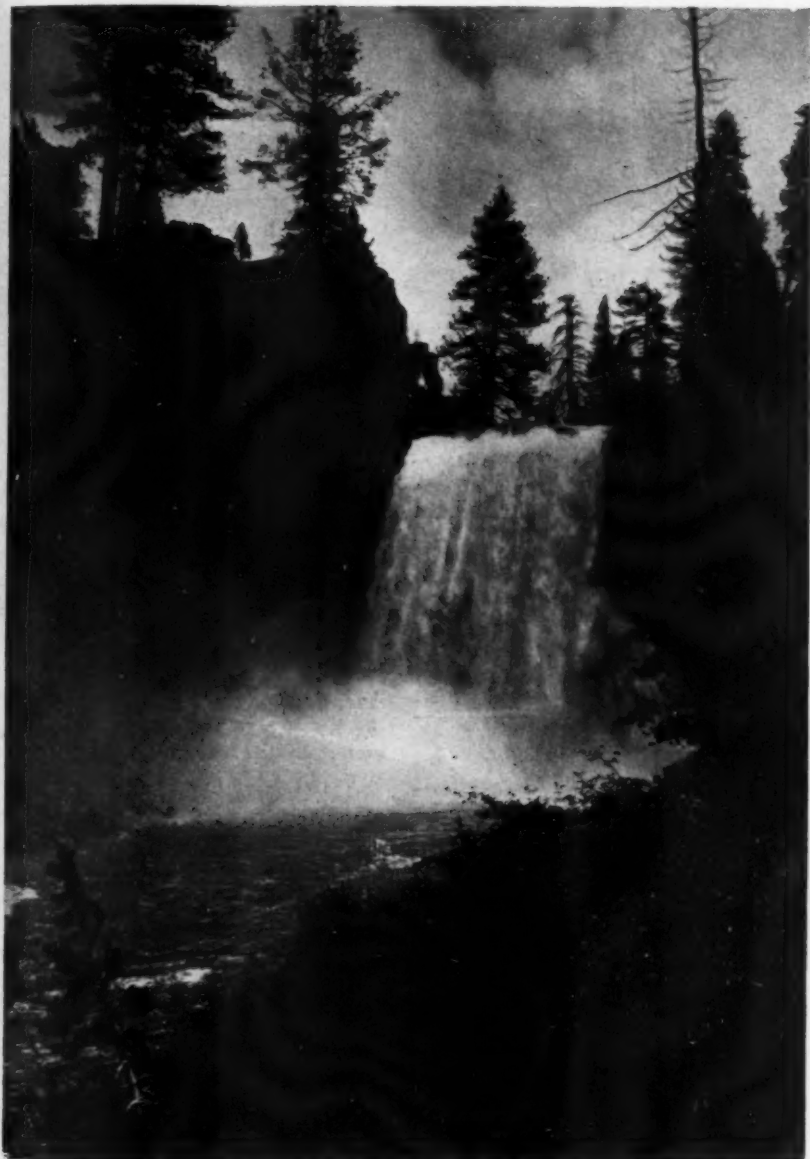


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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

MARCH, 1947



PUBLISHED BY THE SIERRA CLUB

Announcing the 1947 Summer Outings (page 5)



SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

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MARCH, 1947

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Cover—Rainbow Fall, near Mammoth Pass. By Joseph N. LeConte.

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EDITOR'S MISCELLANY

Praise (from Honorary Vice-President Horace M. Albright, former Director of the National Park Service and President, American Planning and Civic Association, to Secretary Leonard). . . . This is just a note to tell you that I have greatly admired the magnificent fight you have put up for the San Gorgonio primitive area. You did as good a job in this conservation battle as I have seen done in my thirty-odd years of experience in this sort of thing. The February 1947 bulletin, on which I am sure you collaborated extensively in the San Gorgonio discussion, is a masterpiece. . . .

And Unpraise (from a member). . . . If it is imperative that wilderness areas be, as Brower contends, maintained absolutely inviolate and untrampled, no roads, trails, fire breaks, or fences should ever be constructed. . . . All persons entering wild or forest areas should be carefully searched and inspected to make certain they bring into such areas none of the contaminating products or destructive influences of civilization. Knives, axes, compasses, rucksacks, sleeping bags and all food should be left at home. Shoes, being such a product should not be worn and all hightrippers should wander into the Sierra barefooted, communing with and in "direct contact" with nature, sleeping in bivouacs under the stars. . . .

(And from another member). . . . Beaumont and Banning are wild enough for me.

Reinforcement [from article by John Sieker, Chief, Division of Recreation and Lands, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C. (in *Journal of Forestry*, November, 1946)]. There is nothing esoteric about the

[Continued on page 32]

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The Prodigals

America's resources of scenery that we explore and enjoy today are not set aside through accident. National parks and forests, state and county redwood groves and beaches, wilderness areas and primeval regions—these are not now open to free public enjoyment just through happenstance, just because the country is so big and its resources so limitless that no one has yet got around to fencing them in.

These areas, to which millions go each year for escape, exercise, or rest, are available only because men have fought for them. We who enjoy the mountains today owe a debt to generations of men now gone, or now no longer able to be fully active, who have thought in terms of long-range public use and enjoyment rather than immediate development and exploitation. We in California owe to these men of vision much of what we most enjoy—the four national parks, the preservation of some of the redwoods, the recreational areas of the national forests, whether set aside as wilderness or opened to controlled roadside development, the unfenced beaches, the national monuments, the county and city parks.

Long opposed to the men of vision have been some of the men of commerce, who have been slow to comprehend that the retention of outstanding scenic and recreational areas as public domain is good business in the long run. This is no indictment of commerce as a whole. Commerce has fathered many men of vision. It is, however, an indictment of those who are forever seeking the lever with which to move the earth—of the men who in their commercial role hear only today's ring of the cash register.

The campaign between men of vision and the cash-register men has been long—at

least ninety-two years long in this state, many times longer elsewhere. Where the men of vision have lost battles, we see unpleasant things when the dust of battle settles. We see the flood where there used to be the scenic masterpiece of Hetch Hetchy Valley, drowned for a purpose which other valleys, not scenic masterpieces, would have served better. We see many a sylvan dell in the Mother Lode, and many an acre of Central Valley farmland, gutted by dredgers, with heaps of entrails left as monuments to false economy—the saving of the few cents a ton which would have leveled off the piles of boulders and given nature a chance to build soil again. We see inadequate metropolitan zoning, sewage dumped into a bay the shore of which could otherwise rival the Riviera. We see all-but-ageless Big Tree stands blasted down for fenceposts and grape stakes (the fragments being hardly good for anything else). We have seen wasteful logging methods that have given too little thought to a recurrent yield, and we're still seeing them. We've seen a bonanza-like salmon run reduced to a mere limp, herds of sea otters stoned and pelted, High Sierra meadows irreparably damaged to produce a few extra pounds of meat. We've seen a race to pump up oil—a resource that will not be replaced in this civilization's time or that of many civilizations to come—for wasteful storage and extravagant use. To look at the scene in the most terrible implication, we can see that *men of one generation's time—the generation that saw two world wars—have taken from the earth and lost to men of all time more of the earth's resources than all preceding generations of all known civilizations have ever thought to disturb.*

The cash-register men call this progress.

It is far too late now to advocate, even if we would, a return to the tepee—to the Indian's custom of living on the income of natural resources, the replenishable deer, acorns, pine nuts, and grasshoppers. It's too late to urge that we quit our present-day habit of squandering large portions of a bountiful natural endowment of resources (thinking ourselves incomparably clever and enterprising as we admire the gain of the moment).

No, we won't return voluntarily to the tepee. Our descendants can live there later, when the inevitable eviction notice is served.

But we can be cognizant of the conflagration to which we are contributing our small part, and think twice before we throw more gasoline on the flames now consuming the resources of the land, which alone have made great this America and its men.

In thinking twice, we can look more carefully at our own chosen field, conservation as it applies to the natural scene. We can thank the men who have handed down to us such mountain recreation lands as we now enjoy. We can realize that our debt to them can never be paid to them. We can be reasonably sure that they would thank us, and consider the debt well paid, if we took care of the unspoiled places they saved for us, if we didn't overgraze, overlumber, overmechanize, overski them, but passed them on with as few scars as possible to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Each day, whether in Congress, in state legislatures, or in a park or a forest, some new challenge presents itself, and someone must take the conservative role of the conservationist in accepting that challenge. In this bulletin alone the member who seeks it can discover his own role, a chance to apply

the initiative required for checking those who would squander resources that should be saved for tomorrow.

Yes, a debt to the past becomes a debt to the future. In our own field, each pleasant day in mountains should perhaps be charged against us; our account should then be credited for each day on which we extend our vision and give a nod to posterity—on which we act for the unnumbered men who will have to be less prodigal than we and who are entitled to explore and enjoy mountains as pleasant as ours.

How does our balance stand today? Is our account long past due?

D. R. B.

Exhibit

Photographs of California's thirteen fourteen-thousand foot peaks, by William G. Bancroft of Palo Alto, will be on exhibit at the Club rooms, 1050 Mills Tower, during March and April.

Redwood in Asia?

Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, professor of Paleontology of the University of California, has directed attention to the existence of Redwood-like trees on the continent of Asia. The disclosure was made by Dr. Chaney at a Save-the-Redwoods League meeting, and was discussed by him at Richardson Grove, Humboldt County, before delegates to the National Conference on State Parks, on their Pacific Coast Pilgrimage.

"A significant example of conservation has recently come to light," said Dr. Chaney, "with the announcement by H. H. Hu of the discovery of three living sequoia-like trees near a temple in central China. . . ."

Christian Science Monitor.

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Outings For 1947

Brought up to date, the purpose of the Sierra Club is to explore and enjoy the mountains, and to render them accessible—as *wilderness*. Club outings—the gamut of them—have been devised to make this possible, to get people into the mountains, to make them happy there, without roads or hotels. The outings are trail outings, and the cost, in money and in effort, varies according to how many things are carried on the trail, and who carries them.

The Knapsack Trip costs least. Some food is carried for the knapsackers, but everything else is carried by them, and they help themselves around camp. To the degree that they work for it, knapsackers are the most independent of mountain travelers, and they are easiest on the mountains (they eat no grass).

Burro trips cost a little more. Two persons keep track of each burro, who then responds by carrying the food and equipment, becoming a great pet, and supplying musical entertainment. Of course, burros require the traveler to remain more or less close to the trail but great independence still exists. The training in caring for oneself in the mountains makes this a particularly valuable trip.

The Base Camp Trip is probably the easiest way of all to enjoy the wilderness, and is yet not expensive because only one move is made. One permanent camp, staffed with cooks and leaders of various activities, is established, all food and equipment are packed in on animals, and the base campers can seek out the last nook and cranny of the immediate area.

A little more expensive is the High Trip, now in its 43rd year. Mules, packers, and staff attend to most of the chores; but differing from the base camp, the high trip moves from campsite to campsite and in the course

of its four weeks visits the cream of the High Sierra.

The Saddle Trip—or the high-horse trip, or the cavalry, if you wish—is most expensive, for here the horse assumes the responsibility of looking at the trail and climbing uphill, and a staff does the saddling, packing, and cooking. The rider is free to revel in the Sierra scene.

All the outings have a fine tradition behind them, and have managed to please every type of outdoor person except the one to whom three is a crowd. The number of persons traveling along with the High Trip has alarmed only those who have never attended one. Somehow the mountains are always big enough; the throng scatters so much that one need see only his chosen friends all day long. Usually, by dinner time, he or his friends are glad to see someone else for an hour or two.

We will assume that you already agree that the wild places are beautiful and well worth seeing. Details of each trip will little more than list the names of the places visited. If you want a fuller description, get out the topo maps and contemplate the myriad blue lakes, passes, meadows, and peaks; delve into the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for the past half century and let the photographs lift your thoughts to the high places; or corner some old-timer (he need only have gone into the Sierra once before), get him started on the Sierra, and then try to stop him!

Below you will find some pertinent facts for each trip, followed by general policies and methods of signing up for all trips. Detailed itineraries, equipment lists, and recommendations will be forwarded later as supplemental announcements to those going.



THE KNAPSACK TRIPS

How much can you take into the Sierra or the Wind River Range on your back—and still have fun? Is twenty or twenty-five pounds too much? If so, the knapsack trips are not for you. But if you can handle that light a load, then the cache-and-carry, small-pack type of trip will take you into the out-of-the-way mountain amphitheaters and lake basins that are reserved for those who need neither trails nor packstock.

Two Trips

This summer two knapsack trips, of two weeks each, are scheduled. The first will be in the Evolution Group, July 13-26, which will be entered via Lamarck Pass and left via Bishop Pass.

Trip no. 2 is the second of a planned series of out-of-state knapsack trips with emphasis on mountaineering. The destination will be in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, under the spectacular slopes of 13,785-foot Gannett Peak, in the Glacier Primitive Area. Dates, July 28-August 9.

The Cache and Carry System

From a roadhead, the knapsackers carry a minimum of equipment and personal items as they travel to the first food cache, which

has been previously laid by packstock near a select campsite. The party bases here, exploring the near-by region until the cache has furnished enough meals to be light enough to carry easily while the group continues cross-country, to the next cache. In this way no more than a few meals need be carried at one time. Further saving in weight results from using light equipment and avoiding unnecessary items. The details of running camp are few, and these are shared by all in the party, who also share the load of the few items of community equipment that are taken. The moves with pack—however light—are few. Most of the days are spent in short trips from the few campsites used. The trips need not be arduous, nor need they be too easy. There will be plenty of peaks and streams to explore for those with energy to burn.

Who May Come

Qualifications are the same as those listed for the burro trips; the packs, however, will not be so large as to require that members learn the diamond hitch.



THE BURRO TRIPS

A Burro Trip is the outing for those who prefer not to carry even the moderate loads required of the knapsacker, who are not sufficiently sedentary to fancy the base camp, and who like to rough it a little more than the high tripper. It is the outing for those who want to learn to do it on their own. Two

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weeks of instruction in burro management will prepare you to conduct your own trip with friends or family next season. The others in the party will be forced to eat your cooking or starve, and you will find that their cooking is better than you expect. Everybody helps make and break camp, and nobody minds at all.

Base will be at Onion Valley and the first pass will be Kearsarge. The leader will have several suitable itineraries in mind from there, but will be open to suggestion. Burros require their packers to follow trails, but free them of the necessity of seeking food caches on a schedule dictated by hunger. The party may decide if a trip to the north over Glen Pass to Rae Lakes, Sixty Lakes Basin, and the mountain-sheep country near Mt. Baxter is more or less attractive than a swing to the south over Foresters Pass to the headwaters of the Kern River and the 14,000-footers which are waiting there.

There will be several layover days at the camps voted to be favorites, and those who wish can climb peaks while others fish or loaf in the sun. Overnight cross-country trips can be arranged from these bases.

There will be three trips:

July 6—July 19

July 20—August 2

August 3—August 16

The parties are limited to twenty persons each, selected from the applicants by the Burro Trips Committee with an eye to a reasonable balance of ages and sexes. Individuals wishing to go on more than one trip will be accommodated after June 10 if places are available. The only qualifications are a good physical condition, a good disposition, a willingness to work, and a desire to learn the tricks of mountaineering and packing.



THE FORTY-THIRD HIGH TRIP

To take full advantage of what snow we have this summer, the High Trip will enter the Sierra at Agnew Meadow on June 29 (Sunday), pause in the Ritter region, and then head south, so that high trippers will always be looking ahead toward the north, snow-bearing slopes. The first-two-weekers will camp successively at Lake Ediza, Devils Postpile, Purple Lake, Lake of the Lone Indian, and near Second Recess.

Second-two-weekers will drive to Little Lakes Valley on July 12 (Saturday) and come into the High Sierra over Mono Pass. Subsequent camps will be on Bear Creek, below Lake Italy, at Marie Lake, Senger Creek, and finally in French Canyon below Pine Creek Pass, the route of egress on July 26 (Saturday).

The trip as a whole will be essentially the same as in 1938, but the earlier expedition followed one of the heaviest of recent winters, and was more arctic than Sierran. This announcement goes to press far too early to include a reliable forecast of summer depths of snow and pass openings, and the management is not yet advocating that those who go on the trip trade in ice axes for canteens; according to the best information, however, this summer will be unusual. In all probability, the present itinerary can be followed to the letter; it is, nevertheless, only the fifth proposal so far, and veteran high-trippers know that the itinerary which is eventually worked out is normally numbered in the 'teens.

As a conservation measure the High Trip will this year be strictly limited to a maximum of 125 members. This is essential in order to reduce the number of pack stock so as to minimize the very serious grazing load upon the high mountain meadows. For the same reason, few saddle stock will be available on a long-term basis; some will be on hand for emergency use at daily rates.

Partly because of this limitation in number, and partly because of the rise in cost of food and packing, the outing deposit has increased to \$60 for two weeks, and there can be no reduction in rate for four weeks. Two-week and four-week reservations will be accepted in the order of receipt. Leadership will include Dave Brower as Manager, Charlotte Mauk, Jim Harkins, Bill Blair, Ted Ginno, Howard Koch, Howard Parker, Joe Wampler, Barbara and Toni Bristow, Ted Grubb, Helen Smith, Nance Wale, and Jack Heynemann.



SIXTH SADDLE-HORSE TRIP

This year's Saddle Trip will follow part of the Muir Trail south, starting over Bishop Pass on July 29 and ending over Kearsarge Pass on August 8.

What The Trip Is Like

A riding trip will appeal to many Club members—both those who have had previous riding experience, and others who have not. Seeing the Sierra from a saddle offers the Sierra enthusiast many attractions, to wit:

1. The scenery can be enjoyed continuously. The riders find that they can appreciate the scenery all the way, while their mounts worry about where to walk.
2. Riding is less tiring than walking.
3. Riders are allowed 50 pounds of dunnage.
4. More country can be covered by riding than by "foot-burning."
5. Excellent opportunity is afforded for learning riding and horsemanship.
6. The party is relatively small in size.

Riders with guides start out soon after breakfast. There is no attempt to keep riders in close formation on the trail. They ride at whatever pace and with whom they like. Usually, however, all riders and horses are bunched at noon for rendezvous with lunch mule. The pack trains pass riders during the lunch hour so that dunnage is available for fishing, reading, boudoir-making, etc., by the time riders reach camp.

Previous riding experience, although helpful, is not at all necessary. Guides and packers will always lend a hand. Any person in good health can enjoy this trip, but it is not recommended that those expecting a "soft" trip should make application. The high cost is made necessary by the small size of the party, and is not an indication of luxury alone. Riders are expected to help with camp chores on a friendly volunteer basis just as is the case on all Club trips.

The party will be organized by Ike Livermore.

Itinerary

The trip will start from road's end at South Lake. Transportation to South Lake will be arranged for riders who desire to leave their cars at Onion Valley for availability as soon as the trip ends.

First day's ride will be over Bishop Pass

to camp in Dusy Basin, followed by a lay-over day. From here, the party will ride down into Le Conte Canyon where it will join the Muir Trail and follow it to our second camp at Palisade Lake. From here, riders will continue over Mather Pass to a three-day camp in the upper South Fork of Kings River. From here, side trips may be made to Taboose Pass, Cartridge Pass, Bench Lake and the South Fork gorge. It is the leader's intent to explore the South Fork gorge as thoroughly as possible to investigate its feasibility for pack trains and riders, some of which have been reported to have made this difficult passage in years past.

From this camp, riders will proceed south on the Muir Trail over Pinchot Pass to camps at Twin Lakes and Rae Lakes. Stop-overs at these camps will be followed by the final day's ride over Glen and Kearsarge passes, reaching trail's end at Onion Valley on August 8.

Trip Information

Although as much as 50 pounds of dunnage is allowed, "packers' headaches," i.e., odd objects such as suit cases, satchels, wicker fish creels, or collapsible bathtubs, will be frowned upon. Riders able to play musical instruments, however, may have them transported in addition to the 50-pound limit, but consult the management. Riding boots are comfortable, but not necessary; denim waist overalls, or equivalent, are both comfortable and necessary.

In order that the best possible choice of mounts may be made, the following information should accompany riders' deposits: age, sex, height, weight and previous riding experience, if any. Each rider will be assigned his horse on the first day. The number of riders will be limited to 15. This limitation is made necessary by the fact that

pack stock is always in heavy demand by private parties in August. If enough demand is expressed by Club members, the Outing Committee may organize a second saddle trip in early September, when saddle and pack stock is more readily available.



BASE CAMP

Base Camp, this year, will be on the north and abruptly glaciated side of the North Palisade group of mountains at the northern edge of the Kings Canyon National Park, in a country new to Sierra Club Outings. The campsite will be on a beautiful alpine lake in the heart of one of the most spectacular natural amphitheatres in the Sierra. The jagged walls of this amphitheater include such outstanding mountains as the deeply sculptured Temple Crag, heavily buttressed Mount Sill, ice-couloired North Palisade, sharply serrated Thunderbolt, needle-like Mounts Winchell and Agassiz, and the avalanche-carved Inconceivable Range. Numerous spiry nunataks mark the floor and sides of the basin, helping to make this a photographer's and painter's paradise.

Three living glaciers can be seen here at work, undercutting the 14,000-foot crest of the Sierra. This group of glaciers (extending to Split Mountain) is reputed to be the most southerly in North America. A granny trip will make it possible for all who wish to visit and explore the North Palisade Glacier with its massive moraines, deep

crevasses, curious pedestal rocks and awesome bergschrund.

The camp, situated on the desert side of the range, will be warmer and freer from storms than usual and should prove an ideal place for those who prefer to relax and enjoy the scenic wonders. For the explorer and climber the opportunities are limitless. For the fisherman, there are innumerable nearby lakes well stocked with fish. John Thomas Howell will be with us, collecting for the California Academy of Sciences and conducting the nature tours. Dean Curtis will preside over the commissary, thus insuring the super-menus which have made the Base Camps famous. Campfires will be a feature as usual—Portia Bradley has already sent in her reservation. Dr. David Rytand will be in charge of the medical department and Oliver Kehrlein, who has explored in this region for over twenty years, will lead both sessions of the Base Camp.

Horses will be available for those who prefer to ride to the campsite and tents may be reserved for those who prefer not to bring their own. Musical instruments and extra photographic supplies will be packed in free in excess of the usual dunnage limitations. Transportation will be arranged for, from Big Pine, for those coming by bus. The hike to our campsite is a short seven miles over a well-maintained trail.

The dates are: first trip, July 20-August 2; second trip, August 3-August 16.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Outings are open only to members of the Sierra Club or similar clubs. With the exception of children under 12 on the Base Camp, all members of a family must be members of the Club. All pay full rates. Since the trips are at high altitudes and

fairly strenuous, all persons must be in sound health, and a *physical examination is strongly advised*. Those intending to go should take some local walks and climbs to get into condition. Shoes that are to be worn in the mountains should be used and checked on these preparatory trips. Those who do not have lightweight equipment would do well to begin acquiring it, for overweight can only be carried by individual advance arrangement with the packer. Transportation is usually by private car, expenses being shared.

The Sierra Club outing is a co-operative enterprise and each person partaking of the benefits assumes his share of the responsibilities, both financial and for help on the trip. The deposits listed will probably cover the expenses:—**FULL DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED** with the reservation.

Trip	Total Deposit	Deadline Date	Dunnage Limit
Knapsack	\$ 25	June 24	15 lbs.
Burro	40	June 10	25 "
Base Camp	38	July 8	30 "
High	60	June 10	30 "
Saddle	180	June 1	50 "

The full deposit should be made soon, since the list will close when the number who can be accommodated have made this deposit. Refunds will be made to those unable to go who cancel before their trip begins. A fee of \$5 (knapsackers, \$2) will be charged for payments or cancellations made after the deadline date. Remit to "Sierra Club" and be sure your reservation includes the names and addresses of all persons for whom it is made, and that it specifies which trip, covering which dates, is desired; whether transportation is desired or can be provided for others; if applying for saddle,

(Continued on page 11)

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Spring Outing—Yosemite Valley



Richard M. Leonard
On the Lower Spire, Yosemite.

During the late Spring, Yosemite Valley is abloom with flowering dogwood and fragrant azaleas, and the meadows are lush and

Outings

(Continued from page 10)
burro, or knapsack trips, please list relevant experience and give sex, height, weight, and age.

The Outing Committee

RICHARD M. LEONARD, *Chairman*;
RAFFI BEDAYN, PHIL S. BERNAYS,
HERBERT L. BREED, ROBERT
R. BRECKENFELD, DAVID R.
BROWER, MILTON HILDEBRAND,
OLIVER KEHRLEIN, DR. H. S.
KIMBALL, NORMAN B. LIVER-
MORE, JR.

green, while the waterfalls are at their fullest. Why don't you join your Sierra friends from all five chapters and enjoy this outing as a warm-up trip for the summer?

The principal leader will be Howard Koch. Other competent leaders will be available for nature walks, long or short hikes, or perhaps a climb or two. An entertainment program is being planned for evening campfires.

Owing to the popularity of the Spring Outing, the trip is limited to 400 members and their immediate family only. Send your reservation with check or money order (payable to the Sierra Club Spring Outing) to Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco. Meal tickets or refunds will be mailed after deadline date, Tuesday, May 20. Cancellations or reservations after the deadline date will be charged a 20% penalty. Meals will not be sold in the valley. Price of meals is 75c each or \$6.00 for the eight meals. If you can prove to the satisfaction of the outing management you are under twelve, then you can go for half price! Commissary will serve Friday breakfast through Sunday lunch.

If you can supply transportation or need it, please direct your request only to the persons designated in the chapter schedules (for San Francisco, Mildred Hilkey, Jordan 71135; for the East Bay, Virginia Ward, ASberry 6329). Note also that the club will be in Camp 9. Further details will be sent to those making reservations.

RAFFI BEDAYN

The Special Election

The membership of the Sierra Club, by approving all eleven by-law amendments submitted to them, have taken an important step in streamlining the organization of the club. It is reassuring to know that the changes do not represent the viewpoint of a bare majority. As shown below, the eleven propositions carried by ratios varying from 62:1 to 5:1. The organization and membership committees are entitled to the thanks of the club for the excellent job done in develop-

postwar upswing. The desert areas are claiming their fair share of interest. Local activities consistent with the basic purposes of the club continue to expand in variety and attendance. The club now owns ten huts and lodges and funds have been given to the club to erect two more.

These functions provide not only healthy outdoor recreation and the inspiration of the high areas but also insure that the club will indoctrinate and train new leaders to carry

Election Returns

The Judges of Election have canvassed the votes in the special election on amending the by-laws, and find the following votes cast for and against each amendment:

Amendment No. 1	For	1778	Amendment No. 7	For	1776
(membership committee)	Against	74	(open meetings)	Against	75
Amendment No. 2	For	1770	Amendment No. 8	For	1813
(membership procedure)	Against	79	(termination of ownership)	Against	29
Amendment No. 3	For	1781	Amendment No. 9	For	1803
(By-law conformity)	Against	66	(member suspension)	Against	43
Amendment No. 4	For	1789	Amendment No. 10	For	1719
(chapter suspension)	Against	66	(petition requirements)	Against	107
Amendment No. 5	For	1771	Amendment No. 11	For	1556
(chapter powers)	Against	79	(increase in dues and admission fee)	Against	281
Amendment No. 6	For	1632			
(residence on ballot)	Against	208			

More than two-thirds of the ballots cast were in favor of each amendment, and all amendments carried. The revised by-laws will be published in the member's handbook.

ing the amendments which are now part of the by-laws.

Some may still ask, "Why are any changes necessary in our organization?"

For better or for worse the club is growing rapidly in membership, having increased about 25 per cent during the last year alone. Its activities have increased in both number and popularity. Instead of a single summer high trip, eleven camps and trips were conducted last year. We have undertaken new mountain activities such as rock-climbing and skiing, both of which show a strong

on with increasing effectiveness the conservation program of the club—the primary reason for its existence.

These varied and expanding activities require an efficient organization functioning through chapters and committees whose responsibilities and authority are clearly defined. The geographical distribution of our membership requires the appointment of vice-chairmen of club committees residing in various parts of the state to permit full opportunity for membership participation in committee activities. It is also important

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that the club keep its membership properly informed of its activities through an enlarged program developed by the editorial committee.

All of this cannot be done without the funds which the membership has now pro-

vided by increasing the admission fees and annual dues.

The next task of the membership as a whole is the selection of directors to govern the club for the ensuing year. Every member should vote. BESTOR ROBINSON, *President*

Report on San Gorgonio Hearing

There were approximately 500 people at the beginning of the public hearing at San Bernardino. Seventy organizations were represented plus many individuals. They divided up about as follows:

For modification: The California Chamber of Commerce and three other chambers; the National Ski Association, the California Ski Association, and 18 small ski clubs.

Against modification: 7 chambers of commerce and civic clubs, 7 water-users' organizations, 7 sportsmen's clubs, 6 youth organizations, 4 natural science groups, 5 hiking clubs and the following organizations of statewide or national interest—State Fish and Game Commission, California Federation of Women's Clubs, National Parks Association, Isaak Walton League of America, National Audubon Society, Wildlife Society, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Ski Mountaineering Committee of the National Ski Association. It was also pointed out that the American Forestry Association and American Planning and Civic Association opposed modification.

At the beginning of the hearing Mr. Thompson outlined a general scheme of development as follows:

First, that portion of Barton Flats eliminated from the Primitive Area will be reserved for

public campgrounds, picnic areas, and organization camp use. Second, a public road terminating at the summit of Poop-out Hill with necessary parking areas at the end of the road. Third, from the summit of Poop-out Hill to South Fork Meadows an up-trail and a down-trail for public use, the up-trail to be used also for hauling supplies and materials for the construction, operation and maintenance of skiing facilities and for the evacuation of casualties. Fourth, near South Fork Meadows an administrative building with first aid and sanitation facilities, ski shop and lunch room. Fifth, necessary ski tows and lifts and sanitation facilities for winter use on slopes above South Fork Meadows.

Mr. Thompson further stated:

In considering our proposal keep in mind these additional points:

1. When the final decision is made, the Chief of the Forest Service will make it.
2. The Forest Service still has an open mind in this matter. It intends to study and consider every argument, proposal, letter and pertinent fact which has been or will be presented to it up to the end of the ninety-day period.
3. Under no circumstances will any development work be initiated until all privately-owned lands which could interfere with orderly development and control of the area are acquired.
4. Whatever plan is developed will be prepared in advance of any construction or the issuance of any permits. A committee of interested individuals and group representatives will

be formed to aid in shaping the final plan. This will be a group-product in which *all* viewpoints have been considered. It must, however, be a *Forest Service*-approved plan. Public need and convenience, *not* profit for concessionaires, will be the basis for all plans for use and development.

5. The recreational plans and policy for the Barton Flats Area *outside* the present Primitive Area boundary are not changed.

6. Funds for road construction to the present area boundary or beyond, or for other developments are not in sight. Therefore, regardless of the final decision, no promise as to when road construction and development could begin, has been or can be made or implied.

RICHARD M. LEONARD,
Secretary, Sierra Club.

This Legislation Is Pending:

In December the Board of Directors voted that the Sierra Club join the Natural Resources Council of America. One of the services of the council is a conservation news service, giving coverage on pertinent legislation pending in congress. We have been supplied with this information ever since the 80th Congress convened on January 2.

With this fund of legislative information in our possession, it is our intention to try to keep the club membership informed on the progress of all important bills as they go through the legislative mill. Herewith is presented a resumé of the more important conservation bills introduced into the House and Senate up to this time.

H. J. Res. 84 (Mr. Norman, Washington). To authorize creation of a special commission to be designated as the Commission on the Olympic National Park. (Referred to

Additional Test Judges Named

We regret the omission of the following names from the list of judges published last month:

Fourth Class. Dean Ashcraft, Fred Eaton, Bob MacConaghy, Nate Clark, Chet Errett, Ray Ingwersen.

Third Class. Hensel Fremstad, Roy Gorin, Howard Koster, Robert Baker, Earl Merritt, Muir Dawson.

Second Class. Bob Brinton, Larry Thackwell, Paul Flinchbaugh (chairman), Glen Dawson.

Ski Mountaineer Test. Howard Koster (chairman), Ray Ingwersen, Hensel Fremstad, Chet Errett, Bob Brinton.

the Committee on Public Lands, 2/23/47.) This commission of nine members is to conduct hearings and to determine what areas within the park are valuable primarily for timber, mineral, or other commercial resources and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that specific areas be withdrawn from the park if they appear to be more valuable for their commercial resources than they are for their scenic attractions.

H. R. 1330 (Mr. Barrett, Wyoming). To abolish the Jackson Hole National Monument as created by Presidential Proclamation dated March 15, 1943. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/27/47.) *S. 91* (Mr. Robertson, Wyoming). To amend the Act entitled "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities," approved June 8, 1906. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/8/47.)

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H. R. 1676 (Mr. Fernandes, New Mexico). To amend Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities," approved June 8, 1906. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 2/5/47.)

Both of these bills are designed to put the creation of national monuments under the control of Congress. S. 91 specifies that proclamations made under the Antiquities Act must be approved by the senators and representatives from the state and districts in which the area to be set aside is situated, and would make this provision of the bill retroactive to December 7, 1941. *H. R. 1676* specifies that proclamations are not effective until approved by Act of Congress.

H. R. 731 (Mr. Lemke, North Dakota). To establish the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, to erect a monument in memory of Theodore Roosevelt in the village of Medora, North Dakota. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, 1/9/47, and reported favorably on 2/18/47.)

S. 34 (Mr. McCarran). To amend the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 to permit dissolution of grazing districts or portions thereof upon petition by 60 per cent of the users. Similar to S. 1402 by Senator McCarran in the last Congress, it was referred, January 6, to the Committee on Public Lands.

S. 33 (Mr. McCarran). To permit holders of 10-year grazing permits on national forests to continue in possession of such permits without reduction of privileges and authorizing the transfer of grazing rights with the sale of base properties of the permittees. Similar to S. 33 which passed the Senate in the 79th Congress, but which died in the House Committee on Agriculture, it

was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, January 6.

S. 31 (Mr. McCarran). To amend the Taylor Grazing Act to provide greater participation by district advisory boards in the administration of the act; referred to the Committee on Public Lands, January 6. S. 31 of 79th Congress was a similar bill.

S. 35 (Mr. McCarran). To establish a national resources policy; to create a natural resources council; to provide for a natural resources inventory; referred to the Committee on Public Lands, January 6. A similar bill (S. 1634) was introduced in the 79th Congress.

H. R. 9 (Mr. Angell). To authorize the acquisition of forest lands adjacent to and over which highways, roads, or trails are constructed wholly or partially with federal funds in order to preserve or restore natural beauty. A limitation of one-quarter mile from the boundary of the road right-of-way is placed on such acquisition. Referred to the Committee on Public Works, January 3.

State Senate 740 (Mr. Carter). To control the cutting and marketing of Christmas trees. (Referred to Committee on Natural Resources 1/29/47.)

Assembly 1341 (Mr. Dolwig). Appropriating \$750,000 for acquisition of a "California Veterans' Memorial Park" in Butano Forest, but not requiring the traditional, privately donated matching contribution. (Referred to the Committee on Conservation and Planning 1/29/47.)

Also pending: a bill to remove the \$3,000,000 limit for San Jacinto tramway bonds and a joint resolution memorializing the Forest Service to construct a trans-Sierra highway near Mammoth Pass.

Lest Congress Forget

At the 50th annual convention of the American National Livestock Association, held in Phoenix, Arizona, January 8-10, western stockmen touched off a conservation storm that before the 80th Congress is over may rock the American people. And if the new Congress fails to raise its guard against hasty action, the storm may rock political fortunes as did the Teapot Dome and the Pinchot-Ballinger exposures. The issue involved in this instance is not just oil or coal but virtually all the public lands lying west of the Great Plains, embracing some 400 million acres.

The Phoenix proposals are bold and insidious. After prolonged condemnation of the administration of forage resources of the national forests by the Forest Service, the stockmen passed resolutions calling for a congressional investigation of the national forests and for passage of legislation to eliminate grazing lands from the forests and make them available for private acquirement. Apparently to ameliorate this proposal, the resolutions contained the alternative of transferring such lands to the Department of the Interior for administration by its grazing service or for leasing out or sale. Those who have followed the recent history of Interior's now disorganized grazing service will see in this alternative the same end-objective; namely, private acquirement of public grazing lands by stockmen who now enjoy the permit privilege of grazing their herds within the national forests.

To understand the circuitous import of the Phoenix resolutions, it is necessary to consider them in relation to other recent events relating to the grazing districts created under the Taylor Grazing Act. This Act was passed in 1934 after 30 years of con-

servation effort "to stop injury to the public grazing lands by preventing over-grazing and soil erosion and to provide orderly use, improvements and development" of the public ranges. To put into effect and administer the provisions of the Act the Interior Department set up the Grazing Service.

While the Department's system gave the stockmen, through local boards, a larger hand in administrative affairs than they enjoyed on the national forests, they nevertheless appear to have champed under the bit of restrictions in the use of public lands on which they had in the past ranged their herds on a free-for-all-devil-take-the-hindmost basis without let or hindrance by the federal government.

Although the grazing fees established by the Interior Department are only about one-seventh of those prevailing on the national forests, the requirement of paying even a modest fee for the privilege of using public ranges has been an added irritation to many grazers. In any event, when the House Committee on Public Lands a year ago raised the question of increasing the fees to a more equitable level, stockmen protested vigorously and the proposed increase was blocked by breaking the back of the Grazing Service.

What happened was that Congress cut administrative funds of the Grazing Service to a point which makes range management virtually impotent on some 145 million acres of public lands. The head of the Service and 60 per cent of his field staff were displaced or forced to resign and the Grazing Service itself has been merged into a newly formed bureau—the Bureau of Land Management—with the General Land Office, whose historic lack of conservation

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management of public lands forced the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act as a measure to save them from eventual ruination by overgrazing.

Secretary of the Interior Krug, it is hoped, may still be able to save this Act, but we think he will have to be much more aggressive and better directed in the public inter-

Piecing its parts together, the picture takes the form of an overall plan of strategy not only to destroy the grazing districts of the public domain but to break up the national forests. As we read the strategy, it is to put pressure on Congress to eliminate grazing lands from the national forests and give present permit holders a preference right to acquire such lands in fee simple. Failing in this they would have the lands brought under the administration of the Department of the Interior where they could be voted out so far as regulated use is concerned and made available for purchase.

As a raid upon public resources, the plan is astounding in its audacity. Nevertheless, it is within the historical pattern of periodical efforts of western stockmen to break down the national forests through congressional legislation and to acquire control of the forest ranges. We cannot believe that the 80th Congress will be trapped by this strategy; certainly not if it reviews the record of the past 25 years and gives free and open hearing to all bills bearing evidence of stockmen's interest and influence.

The latter are entitled to fair hearings of alleged grievances but such hearings should be in the open. And above that, it is the obligation of Congress to give the American public full opportunity to be heard. This, for the reason that the lands and resources at issue are the property, not of the stockmen or any other special interest, but of all the people. Furthermore, the national forests and the grazing districts represent the greatest public conservation achievements of the American people. Let Congress not forget that double-edged fact. — Editorial in *American Forests*, February, 1947. [Official action on this matter has not yet been taken by the Sierra Club.]

CONSERVATION IN THE 1947-48 BUDGET

Appropriation and Project	1948 Budget Estimate	1947 Approp- riation
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
Forest Service:		
(Total)	\$68,920,150	\$71,470,193
National Forests:		
(Total)	25,310,000	24,086,000
Fire Control	7,154,877	6,783,877
Grazing Admin.	794,428	791,228
Wildlife		
Protection	162,813	160,783
Roads and Trails	23,800,000	26,214,222
White Pine Blister Rust Control	1,974,650	2,599,471
Soil Conservation		
Service (Total)	44,860,000	44,723,000
National Arboretum	761,000	76,000
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		
General Administration of range man- agement in timber resources	65,068	41,525
Administration of		
Grazing Lands	980,419	318,846
National Park		
Service	14,555,500	26,017,955
Fish and Wildlife		
Service	12,118,300	11,605,227

est than events since he took office now indicate. There was introduced in the last Congress and there has been reintroduced in the present Congress a bill (S. 34) which if passed will make it possible for stockmen by a 60 per cent vote of permittees using public grazing districts to dissolve the districts, in which event they shall revert to the status of unreserved public lands and become available for leasing. Under the Department's leasing system, this means virtually unregulated grazing.

Brief in Support of San Geronio Primitive Area

[The Sierra Club view as developed and submitted to the U.S. Forest Service at the public hearing held February 19-20, 1947, at San Bernardino.]

I

Wilderness areas are of incalculable value to modern civilization, but are steadily vanishing.

The Sierra Club was organized fifty-five years ago by John Muir and others for the purpose of providing organized effort to carry on the necessary work of preserving some of the wilderness for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Forest Service has established Primitive Areas and Wilderness Areas for the same purpose. It does not seem necessary for the Sierra Club to have to present at great length to the Forest Service arguments for the necessity of zoning certain areas for perpetual use as wilderness.

It should be pointed out, however, that in 1905, when the Forest Service acquired the lands which it now administers, those lands were primarily "left-overs" from the original extensive areas of public domain—areas that for one reason or another had not up to that time been desired for commercial exploitation. The same was generally true in the original establishment of Wilderness and Primitive Areas. They were wilderness and primitive only because no other commercial use had been found for them at the time they were set aside. Fortunately, by virtue of strong Forest Service policy and the forethought of able forest administrators, it was realized these areas might eventually become commercially desirable and therefore should be protected against commercial encroachment. It is therefore most unfortunate that serious attention has re-

cently been given to the argument that no land area should be included within a wilderness or primitive area—or permitted to remain there—if it has any other use.

Basic long-range planning is the heart of any land-use program. Certainly it is frequently true with respect to city zoning that a corner lot in a residential area or a portion of a park might be far more valuable for commercial development of some kind than for residential or park purposes, and it is quite probable that far more people would for a short period be served through the commercial establishment on that lot than would be the case under the original classification.

There is always pressure for development; for in each particular area it may seem that the arguments for development are stronger than for maintenance of the original classification. Unfortunately, because of this relentless pressure the wilderness areas of the nation are steadily diminishing. A loss can never be replaced and there can be no net increase. We cannot afford always to have our wilderness areas made up simply of the portions of the country that the present generation has no other use for.

It is superfluous to point out to the Forest Service the need for wilderness areas. The Sierra Club is ready to give full support to the original Forest Service policy in protecting wilderness areas.

II

San Geronio Primitive Area is the only high mountain wilderness within close reach of a population of five million people.

In southern California only two tiny remnants of high mountain wilderness remain. That of Mount San Jacinto had been set aside by the U.S. Forest Service as a primi-

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tive area for the benefit of all who wished to enjoy some of its values close by the rapidly expanding metropolis of Los Angeles. It was later turned over to the State of California in trust as a wilderness park in which no mechanized or commercial development would ever be permitted. Unfortunately, commercial interests, seeking to use the wilderness for private gain, secured the passage of a bill to establish a "Winter Park Authority" with power to issue bonds for the construction of a three-million dollar tramway into the very heart of the wilderness area. Three times the Sierra Club, and others interested in the preservation of the wilderness, were able to obtain the veto of this dangerous bill. Finally it was passed and signed by the Governor.

Before the tramway has even been started the commercial interests have found that the opening wedge was not enough. They desire to spend more money on the project. A bill has just been introduced into the State Legislature to strike out the limitation of three million dollars in the original act, so that an unspecified larger amount can be spent instead.

The other wild areas of southern California are excellent examples of desert or dry land wilderness with immense charm in their own right. Each of them should certainly be preserved as a wilderness. But none of them except San Jacinto and San Geronio contains such fine high mountain forests, streams, meadows and lakes in a wilderness setting.

It is true that Mount San Geronio also has the finest uncrowded ski slopes of southern California. However, far superior slopes are available in the southern portion of the Sierra Nevada. Hannes Schneider and Luggi Foeger, internationally known skiers, in their 1946 report analyzing the ski areas of

California, described the Mineral King region as "unquestionably the finest skiing surveyed." That area is available for the type of first-class ski development that could rival Sun Valley. It is only 250 miles from Los Angeles by roads that are being constantly improved and are for the most part high speed. The rapid improvement of air transportation may make such areas just as available in another ten years as San Geronio could be at the present time. To withhold present commercial development of the only high mountain wilderness of southern California can do no permanent harm, whereas to develop it now would destroy it forever, even though changes of the next ten years make the Mineral King area or others so much finer that San Geronio ski slopes would not really justify their commercial development.

III

"Modification" of that area for one particular group would serve as precedent endangering all other wilderness areas whether in National Forests, State Forests, National Parks or State Parks.

In answer to the argument of conservationists that the abandonment of the San Geronio Primitive Area to commercial development would serve as a precedent in other areas, it has been stated that nowhere else in the United States can one find a wilderness area so close to so large a population. It is for that very reason that the preservation of this small bit of wilderness is more essential than the preservation of an equal area in a region far from the pressures of civilization. Its very rarity makes it all the more precious. How else can the young people of that huge population, and others who don't have the funds to go to more distant areas, enjoy some of that wilderness? There are other developed ski areas in

southern California, but with the loss of the San Jacinto Primitive Area there are no other true high mountain wilderness areas.

The Chief Forester has stated that he and the other officials of the Forest Service will not consider the commercial developments of the San Geronio Primitive Area to be a precedent for similar development in other areas. The Sierra Club has full confidence in the integrity of the present administration of the Forest Service in support of that view. However, the present view will not bind future administrators and of course is never persuasive upon the pressure groups who, for one reason or the other, seek eventually to modify and develop all usable land wherever situated. If a group of expert skiers can force the commercial development of a primitive area, it is difficult to justify the continued refusal of development planned by other interests, whether for water and power as in Hetch Hetchy, roads for sightseeing busses as in Glacier National Park, or the demands of undisguised commercialism at San Jacinto. The threat is not only to the wilderness areas of national forests. It extends also, as can be seen from the samples given, even to national parks, to which protection is given by act of Congress. How do we justify allowing "ripe" timber to "rot and decay" in the great forests of Olympic National Park, overruling the strenuous and continuous efforts of the lumber interests to "develop" such "locked-up resources" if the only wilderness area close to a large population is allowed to fall to the interests of a minority in the name of one type of recreation?

If a ski resort is permitted in the primitive area of San Geronio, how will the National Park Service withstand the pressure of commercial interests to develop Yosemite and

Mount Rainier national parks as first-class ski resorts for the large populations dependent upon them? The principle of passing on unimpaired to future generations the superlative examples of forests and wilderness or primitive areas is equally applicable whether administration be by the Forest Service or the National Park Service. It is the long-time use for which each area has been classified that must be given the prime consideration. We are properly hesitant about proposals to develop our small areas of city park for commercial purposes; we should be more prudent with respect to the larger areas of the high mountains.

The San Jacinto Primitive Area is a clear example of the danger of permitting a modification of the original Forest Service policy. It was turned over to the State of California under definite commitment of the State Park Commission that it would remain forever as a wilderness park. By extreme political pressure a tramway was permitted, but a limitation of three million dollars was placed on expenditures. Now the commercial interests are back again for additional millions, which in the long run amounts to additional loss of wilderness values. The conclusion is clear: The original Forest Service classification as a primitive area should never have been altered.

IV

Once partial development is permitted, experience shows that full commercial development is almost inevitable.

With regard to the San Geronio Primitive Area it has been proposed that all overnight lodgings and the larger buildings be kept at "Poop-out Hill" or below, and that the road to enable the occupants of those buildings to get to the ski slopes be a narrow service road used only by public transport-

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tation in winter and locked against all access other than Forest Service administrative vehicles in summer.

The Sierra Club respects the sincerity of the Forest Service individuals who have suggested such a plan, and agrees that the Forest Service would do all it could to "hold the line." If the plan were adopted, it does not seem politically practicable, however, for the Forest Service, once having permitted a road into the area, to restrict the use of the road to a commercial operator who will have the monopoly on this transportation. The public will never be able to understand why they can't drive those last few miles themselves, instead of waiting in the blizzard and paying a profit to a commercial operator to get them a short distance that they should be able to cover in their own cars. Once any development is permitted in the area its wilderness character is gone. When commercial interests would apply pressure to have their buildings at the end of the road and adjacent to the skiing, it would be much more difficult for any groups, whether the Forest Service, the Sierra Club, or the Wilderness Society, to argue against such a change. Nor would there be much incentive for them to do so. The wilderness character would already be gone and additional developments would be largely a matter of administrative discretion between the Forest Service and the commercial interests. Another twenty years would almost certainly require a three-lane highway with a large parking area in the Meadow of a Thousand Springs, and plenty of buildings near the skiing to make the development first-class and comparable with Timberline Lodge and other areas of that type.

V

Private land holdings within the primitive area make uncontrolled and conflicting de-

velopment possible if access to such holdings is rendered feasible by the proposed developments.

A full square mile of land, now privately owned by a skier, is so close to the proposed development and "Corridor" that a corner of it probably comes within four hundred yards of Dollar Lake. It seems clear that this private land extends well down the north slope and offers definite possibilities for speculative development once a Forest Service highway is constructed close enough so that the private access road or tramway road would be economically feasible. Another privately owned section seems to touch the head of the Big Draw. There are several sections of other private land within the primitive area and all these will increase in value and become far more difficult for the Forest Service to obtain, but if development is postponed, acquisition of those private holdings would be much easier. There would be little reason for maintaining the classification of primitive area on the remaining Forest Service land within the boundaries, if those boundaries are modified so that commercial development within the "Corridor" permits commercial development within the private land holdings.

VI

A complete factual study of the problem, and the formulation of specific plans for development should be prepared and made available to the public for study and discussion prior to holding any hearing.

If there is to be any possibility of a compromise short of a complete commercial exploitation as a first-class ski resort, very complete facts and plans should be prepared and fully discussed prior to a decision to open the area. Conservationists at the present time have no alternative but to oppose full commercial development. Nothing less has been

proposed in any form that would permit a factual study of the problem.

There is no assurance that any of the "minimum development" plans that have been talked about are really adequate to withstand the pressure for full exploitation.

VII

Avalanche hazard in this area is serious, and would place grave administrative responsibilities upon the officials of the Forest Service should they open it up to large crowds of inexperienced people.

The avalanche hazard of the open ski slopes of Mount San Geronio is serious. This is clearly evident from the photographs published in the January and February *Sierra Club Bulletins*, showing heavy cornices overhanging the ski slopes below, and naked corridors slashed through heavy forest by the power of recurrent avalanches. Those who have been into the area in summer are vividly impressed by the stumps of large trees sheared by the force of such avalanches.

The danger has been clearly recognized in earlier studies and reports of the Forest Service. The study by Hannes Schneider and Luggi Foeger, internationally known experts on skiing, makes specific and repeated reference to the slide danger on these slopes and comments that avalanche structures similar to those used in Switzerland could minimize but not prevent avalanches. Aside from the ugly character of such structures in summer it is a grave responsibility for the Forest Service, after full knowledge of the hazard, deliberately to invite huge crowds of beginning skiers onto or below slopes which present such danger. Most inexperienced skiers would be trusting the Forest Service not to permit developments in hazardous areas, particularly after the experience the Service has had with ava-

lanche deaths at Alta, Utah, and Mount Baker, Washington. Under present circumstances, those who come into the San Geronio Primitive Area for skiing are relatively experienced and are able to choose slopes that for the particular day are free from danger. With crowds estimated at several thousand such choice of safe slopes would not be made, both because of lack of room and because of general ignorance of avalanche hazard.

VIII

Thinning and clearing of small trees and brush that have sprung up since some of the older avalanches would be necessary for skiing, would increase avalanche danger, harm the wilderness, and contribute to erosion.

The Schneider-Foeger report also emphasizes that the smaller growth which springs up after destruction of the older forest by periodic avalanches must be cut away in order to permit good skiing on the lower parts of these slopes. Such cutting emphasizes not only the avalanche hazard mentioned but also indicates the extent of destruction of the wilderness that is necessary to satisfy the demands of a certain class of skiers.

The present users of this wilderness in winter find adequate room without such artificial clearing. The printed presentation of the Chamber of Commerce and California Ski Association optimistically estimates only three months in 1946 when the snow depth at nine thousand feet was more than 25 inches. Close cutting of ground cover is therefore proposed in order to permit skiing at lower elevations and at lesser snow depths.

IX

Water supply, both domestic and for irrigation, would inevitably be injured by pollu-

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sion and erosion, with concurrent increase in flash runoff.

It is clearly recognized by the Forest Service that the Meadow of a Thousand Springs has great importance as a water reservoir at the headwaters of the Santa Ana River. In desert country the protection of such sources of water supply is vital. The cut produced by road construction and the clearing of the smaller ground cover will have definite though unpredictable effects upon the water supply. More easily forecast is the problem of pollution of this supply by crowds which some enthusiasts predict. It just is not possible or practicable under winter conditions to force individuals of such crowds to leave the privacy of a fir tree and seek a distant sanitary station. The detritus of sardine cans, half-eaten sandwiches, and other material carefully "buried" out of sight in the snow comes to an amazing and dangerous total by the time the snow melts in the summer. Aside from the pollution of the water supply, who will be on hand to clean these slopes so that the young people who seek to learn to know and respect the wilderness can enjoy their primitive area as it should be available to them?

The close clearance of ground cover in order to permit skiing under minimum snow conditions will also result in severe problems of erosion and would certainly tend to increase the frequency and severity of flash floods and runoff.

X

Forest Service funds are not adequate for proper administration of present recreational areas; new responsibilities should not be undertaken until sufficient continuing appropriations are assured.

The Sierra Club and most of the other organizations supporting Mount San Geronio as a primitive area have for years done all

they can impress Congress with the need for adequate appropriations to permit the Forest Service to administer recreation properly. The Sierra Club has within the last few weeks sent considerable information to all the California delegation, the senators of the western states and the Appropriations Committees of both House and Senate, urging increased appropriations for trails and recreational administration. The Forest Service itself realizes how inadequate these funds have been in the past. We have now come to a change in political control of Congress and very strong demand for retrenchment in all government appropriations. The cut of six *billion* dollars in the federal budget that has just been voted by the joint committee on the budget is certainly likely to affect the Forest Service appropriations.

The ski development proposed by the Chamber of Commerce should not be undertaken until it can be seen that Forest Service funds will be available to develop and administer the area without too great a sacrifice of the summer and winter needs of other national forests. The Chamber of Commerce expects as an ideal, parking facilities "sufficient for at least a thousand cars;" overnight accommodations for a "minimum of a thousand persons;" "three or more chair lifts;" and a crowd of skiers, tobogganers, snowballers and spectators "estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 persons per week end" for whom the following services must be provided: water, sanitation, roads, parking, traffic direction, and general patrol protection.

XI

Commercial development of Mount San Geronio Primitive Area should not be undertaken until the near-by Mount San

Jacinto Winter Park development has been fully tested as an alternative.

Existing plans for the complete development of other areas have not yet been completed. This is particularly true with the San Jacinto Primitive Area. After conversion of the area to a State winter park, the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority has now been established with authorization to develop the area as an outstanding winter recreational area for the supposed benefit of all the people of southern California. The distance from Los Angeles to San Jacinto is little more than to San Geronimo. The ski slopes are in general just as high, although it is recognized by expert skiers of the Sierra Club that many of the disadvantages and dangers of mass skiing on San Geronimo will also be found on San Jacinto. Nevertheless, it would be a tragedy to all concerned to have several million dollars spent in the development of the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park and then to have that development fail financially, leaving its scars and debris unused upon the landscape. It would be just as tragic were political action to prevent the bankruptcy of the Winter Park Authority, rescuing the investment by means of a highway built in from Santa Rosa Pass with State and County highway funds. Such an eventuality would complete the destruction of the San Jacinto Primitive Area. Even if commercial development of both areas might be construed as proper, their concurrent development could certainly not be.

XII

Summer use of the area is substantial and depends primarily upon retention of its wilderness character.

Figures furnished in August, 1946, by a responsible forest officer showed that the number of organization camps in the Santa Ana Recreational Area that were using the

San Geronimo Primitive Area was estimated at twenty. It was stated that this did not include nine more which were expected to be installed by 1947. The average number at those camps was conservatively estimated by the forest officer at not over 120 boys or girls or both per camp, every ten days to two weeks, for the period June 15 to September 5. It was then concluded that with six distinct 14-day camp periods for the twenty camps the total number of individuals would be approximately 14,400 for the season. On the basis of these figures the total youth-days of camping in the Santa Ana Recreational Area would exceed 200,000 per summer.

Two weeks ago at the meeting of the Forestry and Conservation Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce which voted to support the original wilderness character of the San Geronimo Primitive Area, another responsible forest officer stated that there were 25 or more youth camps using the wilderness from their camps in Barton Flats, mostly during the summer season from June 1 to September 15. He thought there was an average of about 4,000 in daily attendance in those camps. This would give a figure of 400,000 youth-days of summer use adjacent to the area.

On February 13, 1947, the supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest was kind enough to furnish a letter stating:

The following is our best estimate of use made by recreationists of Barton Flats area and San Geronimo Primitive Area:

RECREATIONAL USE, BARTON FLATS AREA		
USE	VISITS	MAN-DAYS
		USE
Fishermen	8,500	12,750
Hunters	3,800	5,700
Campers	2,200	11,000
Summer Homes	1,200	18,000
Winter Sports	1,000	1,250
Organization Camps	19,970	199,710
Total	36,670	248,410

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**USE IN SAN GORGONIO PRIMITIVE AREA*

Hikers (organization Camps, Campers, Residences)	19,970	24,960
Winter Sports	500	600
Total	20,470	25,560

*These figures are duplicated in Barton Flat Area figures.

The Chamber of Commerce estimate of 8,000 to 10,000 persons per week end would not likely be realized for more than the months of January, February, and possibly March. This would give a possible use of 100,000 man-days by all types of winter enthusiasts. This agrees with estimates made by other groups.

The decision, of course, cannot possibly be made on the basis of mere numbers. The foregoing figures are submitted, however, to refute the interpretation of statistics as presented by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber states, "The number of individuals using all these camps totals less than 15,000. Although many of these make the daytime hike to the top of the mountain . . . an average of only 750 persons per summer season camp overnight in the wild area proper—an extremely small figure compared to the 5,000,000 people that live less than three hours distant." As has been pointed out, the figure of 15,000 must be converted to a per-day basis in order to be compared with the estimated week-end or Sunday use in winter. It is unfortunately true that the San Gorgonio Primitive Area is relatively so small that it is not necessary—or possible—for the energetic young folk camped along its border to spend much time camping far within its borders. These young folk will, of course, not spend every day of their camping experience within the Primitive Area, but the trips that they do take into wilderness country have a value to them during their formative years that cannot be measured merely on the basis of man-days

of use or estimates of how huge the crowds will be summer or winter. A wilderness area by its very nature and by definition cannot be subjected to such a comparison based on public use.

Moreover, it is primarily the better skier, who wants a fast down-mountain course with de luxe chair lifts to get him to the top again as rapidly as possible, who is interested in or needs development of Mount San Gorgonio. If statistics of use are to govern, skiers constitute but a small fraction of winter users. In any event, the racer has far better areas available not too far away. The nonracing skier, the beginner, and the spectator have good facilities available at other areas in southern California, and further development is planned. They can seek better snow at distances equivalent to those traveled by skiers in most of the United States. The summer use, however, is primarily by boys and girls who cannot afford the expense that the resort skier, with his needs for chair lift, bars, accommodations, and costly equipment, can afford.

XIII

The large investment of youth organizations in camps along the boundary of the primitive area should be given careful consideration.

A group of Camp Fire Girls wrote to the Sierra Club, expressing grave concern over the possible commercial development of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area. They were investing \$35,000 in their camp accommodations. Many of the other organizations have far greater investments. Most of these investments have been built up slowly over a period of years primarily from charitable funds and bequests, Community Chests, and similar sources. All such investments would be seriously depreciated by a decision to permit development as a ski resort. Because of the nature of the source of the funds, it

would not be practicable for many of these groups to move to other areas—if there were other areas of such high caliber.

XIV

Much of the wildlife would be driven out of the most fertile and livable portion of the primitive area.

Many proponents of development insist that all they want is "a mere five or six thousand acres out of the present total of more than thirty-five thousand acres." Others say they want only a "corridor" or a "gateway." The Chamber of Commerce has suggested the addition of "vast additional logical acreage to the east boundary of the San Bernardino National Forest."

All of these overlook the fact that even jack-rabbits have to have some place to live. Wildlife is an amazingly complete interdependent complex. The small "corridor" or "gateway" to be excluded from the primitive area contains the only living trout stream in the area and the finest browse and meadow land. If that is excluded there is no similar area in most of the balance of thirty thousand acres that would remain. To substitute equal or larger acreage on the east boundary would be like substituting the Merced Canyon at El Portal for Yosemite Valley itself.

XV

Winter use of the area as a wilderness is practicable and enjoyable; resort skiing is available in many other areas.

The Sierra Club is interested in skiing as one of the finest of outdoor sports. Its membership of 5,500 contains more than 2,000 skiers, greater than the membership of any ski club in the state. Ten of the fifteen on the Board of Directors are skiers. On that Board are the manager of the 1936 United States Olympic Ski Team, the ski editor of

the *San Francisco Examiner*, the Chairman of the Ski Mountaineering Committee of the National Ski Association, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Equipment of the National Ski Association, the Chairman of the Touring Committee of the California Ski Association, the former Chairman of the Defense Committee of the California Ski Association, a member of the Mountain and Winter Warfare Committee of the American Alpine Club, and three skiers classed by the National Ski Association as "First-Class Tourers." The Winter Sports Committee of the Sierra Club originated the Fourth Class Ski Test and the Ski Mountaineering Test of the National Ski Association. The *Manual of Ski Mountaineering*, sponsored by the National Ski Association, was written entirely by members of the Sierra Club. That manual is already in its third printing and makes available to thousands the practical information for enjoyment of the wilderness in winter. Only a twenty-pound pack is needed for a week end of fine and safe skiing on uncrowded slopes.

With such an interest in skiing it is well recognized by the Sierra Club that it is just as fine "to explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast" in winter as it is in summer. But if we are also to recognize other legitimate uses, the enjoyment and accessibility must be by means which will not impair the rights of others. Thus ski resorts are fine in their place, but should not be permitted to intrude into a wilderness.

In 1938 the winter sports enthusiasts of the Sierra Club requested the Forest Service to permit "the construction of simple housing facilities" which would "not be inconsistent with the use of the San Geronio Primitive Area for the purposes for which such areas are dedicated." The following

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year that request was rescinded because it was felt that such a request for the use of the area by one group might serve as a dangerous precedent for general commercial development. It is possible that simple shelters administered by the Forest Service and built at locations out of sight of summer use might make a substantial contribution to the winter safety of the area without detracting from summer wilderness characteristics. Before advocating such a compromise, however, the Sierra Club would wish to study the implications of the proposal and consult with other conservation organizations to be certain that a dangerous precedent might not be established.

XVI

Superb winter developments are possible in areas already developed for summer use.

In the broad view of ski development, the entire state must be considered to determine the proper zoning of ski terrain. The Forest Service has made a statewide survey; so have "The Sponsors" and the California Ski Association. Certainly these studies, and those under way by the Sierra Club, make it clear that there are many areas in the state not yet developed, equally accessible from northern and southern California, the development of which would not put wilderness in peril. Mineral King is not wilderness; there are roads and buildings there, as well as superlative ski slopes. The Mammoth region, already highly developed for summer resorts, camps, packing, and home sites,

contains some of the state's finest skiing. Other areas on the east side of the Sierra have possibilities not yet even fully studied. More thought should be given to all the areas now accessible by road in summer, which can be used in winter by providing for snow removal and converting to winter specifications facilities already existent.

It is essential to sound planning that skiers and other users of California's mountains be given full opportunity to consider wise, full, and necessary all-season use of existing developments before any programs of irrevocable modification of the dwindling wilderness is embarked upon. The statewide surveys are still too recent to have been fully explored and understood. Modifications now of San Geronio or any primitive area may be disastrously premature.

XVII

To justify the loss of a wilderness area, the evidence in favor of development should be overwhelming; such that there could be no reasonable doubt that commercial development was the wisest course. If there be a reasonable doubt (for any reason), then development of the area should be postponed until the decision to develop is clear.

Once developed, the wilderness is gone forever. But, if it be preserved, development can be rapid whenever needed.

Respectfully submitted, February 19, 1947

RICHARD M. LEONARD

Secretary

Books for Tappaan Lodge

There is a crying need for books to build up the library at Tappaan Lodge. The committee will be very grateful for any books you may have to spare, on mountaineering, skiing, wildflowers, wildlife, local history,

etc. If books are sent to the Sierra Club office, or to committee member Cicely Christy, 2853 Shasta Road, Berkeley, they can be listed and properly marked before going to Norden.

San Gorgonio Highlights

[A few of the more interesting quotations from the public hearing at San Bernardino. No attempt can be made to give a full report here.—R. M. L.]

Ralph W. Scott, Deputy Attorney General, State of California:

"The corridor on the map looks like a worm entering a nice juicy apple. It won't be long before the whole apple is gone. . . .

San Gorgonio Ski Club:

"The proposal is *not* to destroy the primitive area, it is just to modify the boundaries. . . . Brower has been unfair. . . . There are no deer on the rocks of the north face . . . skiing is a *down hill* sport."

University Camp for Underprivileged Children:

"Will San Gorgonio cure the skiing problems of Southern California?"

The California Chamber of Commerce:

(Took considerable pains to try to prove that they had no selfish motives, represented no particular group, but only) "represent the public that is entitled to use the best skiing area of Southern California."

Cal Tech Ski Club:

"My topic is the Snow Bunny. . . . skiing is a *down hill* sport only."

A Mother:

"I hope my children won't be such sissies that they can't climb on skis."

The Izaak Walton League of America:

"Because of man's folly we are forced to hold this meeting today. It is because of public pressure on the Forest Service that we must hold this meeting. . . . The hunters make heavy sacrifices to support the Forest Service policy for closure for protection of

the forest against fire. Skiers should be willing to make similar sacrifices for the common good. We drive four or five hundred miles for hunting. Skiers can find ski areas as close as our hunting."

Southern Skis:

"There are more people in Yosemite in winter than in summer" (groans from the audience.) "Lake Placid, a famous winter resort in New York, is as wild as one could want . . . *thousands* should enjoy the wilderness by roads instead of the few who go there now."

California Ski Association (Stan Mullins, Secretary):

"I am hurt by the castigation. I will depart a bit from straight facts and perhaps rebut a bit . . . if you enjoyed skiing you would not stand up and call us names today . . . now let me shift to the subject of skiing, factually . . . no mountain in the world so good, so near to so many people . . . (gong) I wish I could talk longer."

U.C.L.A. Girls' Ski Club (A curvaceous young thing of about seventeen):

"Do I look the type that would cut down a tree, rub my hands and say Ha!—destruction?"

Ingleaire Ski Club:

"The flowers have to be pretty tall to be hurt when skiing on four feet of snow. . . . Skiers won't melt the water."

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District:

"We are opposed to opening any part of San Gorgonio for roads or resorts of any kind. . . . The skiers are fine folk, but the State Chamber of Commerce is back of the skiers. They are for industry, not for agri-

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culture. . . . They say this is 'only a *small* opening.' When you open a primitive area, no matter how small, the primitive area is gone forever."

Banning Chamber of Commerce:

"No entering wedge should be allowed. . . . have we reached the end of the trail in exploiting Southern California?"

Southern California Outdoor Federation:

"The commercial interests seek now to stake out claims to mine the gold of a ski resort."

Wilderness Society (Howard Zahniser):

"We can have our skiing and the San Geronio Primitive Area too. . . . We here have the opportunity to make our policies of preservation of wilderness areas stronger than ever before."

The Pasadena Ski Club:

"My mother bought me a pair of skis when I was five years old, and I have been going downhill ever since" (much laughter from the audience).

Trojan Ski Club:

"You can't stop skiing. If you stop this wave, the tidal wave is coming later. . . . There is a movement on foot now to open Tuckerman Ravine and I expect it will be"

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (Arthur H. Blake, Past President):

"A little development would be the initial snow ball rolling down the mountain that would blast the door wide open . . . to me the map looks not so much like a worm in an apple as the explosion of an atomic bomb in the wilderness."

Ski Mountaineering Committee of National Ski Association:

"In the national interest it is suggested that a joint committee be appointed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to

co-ordinate a mountain-use survey for the purpose of determining how best to use each of the areas with the least friction between the various users. It is not only the national forests that are involved; it is also the national parks and state parks.

San Bernardino County Farm Bureau:

"Each person in the area would require about twenty-five gallons of water a day."

A Mother of Skiers:

"I couldn't possibly drink twenty-five gallons of water a day, and I do not believe we have ever polluted the water. . . . we ask for modification of the Primitive Area, not for future generations but for *this* generation."

The Ramblers:

"The loss of San Jacinto makes it more imperative than ever that we save San Geronio. Now is the time to hold the line. . . . Will the Forest Service promptly remove the clutter that each season's skiing would bring? They have not enough ranger staff right now adequately to patrol the area."

Roamers (Carl Sharsmith):

"You *can* have your cake and eat it too, if San Geronio is enjoyed as a primitive area."

Charlotte Mauk:

"Skiers would be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

May Pridham:

"Once a road is in we can't try it awhile and then take it out. . . . The 'warming hut' to accommodate the crowds expected would have to be the size of the Shrine Auditorium."

The Wildlife Society (Dr. Olaus Murie):

"Bob Marshall, a former Forest Service officer once said. 'Now, little truck trail, don't you cry, you'll be a highway by-and-by.'"

San Gorgonio Supplement

[A brief presented to the U.S. Forest Service as a result of the San Bernardino hearing.]

The two-day public hearing on February 19 and 20 demonstrated that the basic question to be decided by the Forest Service is whether partial development of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area is practical. Can a line be held at a part-way point within the present boundaries of the primitive area, short of the full development desired by resort skiers and commercial interests?

Some of the skiers who would modify the area have themselves emphasized that they consider their demands irresistible and that if the present wave of enthusiasm is held in check "the tidal wave" will be coming. One of their number stated in effect that if the demands of these skiers were not met they would re-form their lines and *force* the granting of their ultimate objective.

Possibly the best informed representative of the ski association himself thought that the "irresistible" nature of these demands did indeed represent the view of the majority of skiers. He went on to point out that government cannot in the long run withstand public opinion. He seemed confident that the ski clubs could control public opinion with reference to the development of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area. In other words the hearing clearly demonstrated that influential skiers are not willing to be satisfied until they have all that they wish with respect to development of the area as a first-class ski resort.

The compromise plan offered by the Forest Service at the beginning of the hearing could therefore only be temporary, even if accepted by the representative of the ski association. Moreover, he stated that few

resort skiers would be satisfied with the Forest Service concept of a "Governor" for use of the area—a measure whereby the number and quality of skiers would be controlled by the exertion and skill required of skiers climbing from a proposed Poop-Out Hill road-end to the ski lifts.

Since not less than five thousand people per week end would be required within the primitive area in order to make even a ten per cent reduction in the load on the other Southern California winter resorts, the pressure for full development would be increasingly difficult to resist.

Once a road and mechanical facilities are constructed anywhere within the corridor into the primitive area, there is no logical place that a firm stand to "hold the line" can be made, for upon what *principle* is the Forest Service to rally national support behind any decision it might make to hold the truck trail to its original width, and not to extend the road to the base of the ski lifts?

At the present time the boundary line of the Primitive Area is an extremely clear dividing line supported nationally, as well as locally, by public opinion because it is a matter of principle. That dividing line has, in fact, brought unexpectedly earnest support from national, state, and local organizations of a great variety of interests. The boundary of a primitive area permits unlimited commercial development outside of the area (compatible with other zoning regulations) but permits no mechanical development whatever within the area. The separation is definite. No other strong dividing line within the area has been suggested. If the Forest Service is to be able to hold to its principles against the pressure of a local segment of public opinion, it *must* be able to

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enlist the support of other segments of public opinion throughout the particular state involved and throughout the nation, whenever the problem is of national importance. Unless there is a clear dividing line between a proper request for development and an unreasonable request which violates a matter of principle for which the Forest Service stands, public opinion elsewhere will be confused and cannot effectively support the Forest Service.

In other words, there are many persons sincerely interested in land-use management who feel that the area should be either an unspoiled primitive area or a first-class winter resort. A compromise will satisfy no one and will not afford a clear position from which to "hold the line."

It should be stressed, however, that the Sierra Club does not blindly insist upon unchangeable boundary lines. There would be no objection to corrections of the contour boundary of the San Gorgonio Primitive Area to eliminate the organization camps that were there before the classification was established. Similarly, there would be no objection to a logical revision of the boundaries of the Marble Mountain Area. A properly established boundary, however, serves as a principle that is clear and must be defended. A compromise with that principle will leave no sound defensive position for the Forest Service to occupy.

Those who spoke at the public hearing on behalf of national conservation organizations stressed repeatedly their strong interest in the sport of skiing as an excellent and appropriate means of enjoyment of the wilderness. Each of these agencies is earnest and sincere in attempting to develop greater use of the wilderness, both in winter and summer, by means that will not impair its

character as a wilderness. It has been constructively suggested that winter use might be made safer and more practicable in ways that would be consistent with the area's status as a wilderness [for example: (1) simple shelters, publicly administered, placed far from roads, and well off the summer routes of travel; (2) improved access to edge of primitive area; (3) Forest Service coordination of education in wilderness-use procedure, summer and winter]. This suggestion should certainly be carefully studied—perhaps by a committee that could be officially constituted by the Forest Service.

Such measures as might thus be developed would, of course, not attract the skiers who said again and again at the hearing that skiing was a *downhill-only* sport, but they would appeal to a very large number of other skiers. The boundary line of the primitive area would still serve as a clear-cut line beyond which no mechanical or commercial development of any kind could be permitted. It would be defensible at all times as a matter of national principle, and the Forest Service could continue to count on the support of public opinion in this defense.

If San Gorgonio is partly developed, it is clear that the resort skiers will not be satisfied for long. A basic question remains. If it is fully developed, will their needs be appreciably nearer to fulfillment? It does not seem likely. On the basis of present winter sports demand, even an overcrowding of a fully developed San Gorgonio will hardly diminish the crowds at other Southern California resorts. Anything less than unsafe overcrowding of San Gorgonio will bring no noticeable relief elsewhere. Anything approaching overcrowding of San Gorgonio will disappoint its users bitterly, for they demand its development to free them from present crowded lifts and slopes. The con-

sequence is apparent: development of San Gorgonio would lose its primitive value, but would not solve the skier's problem. The solution must in the main lie farther afield; but it can also include provision for better wilderness skiing in San Gorgonio as an available relief from crowded skiing elsewhere.

Rather than weaken the status of San Gor-

gonio as a Primitive Area by severely modifying its boundaries, the Forest Service should, on the basis of the public hearing, strengthen the status by formally classifying the San Gorgonio region as a "Wild Area."

Respectfully submitted, March 10, 1947

RICHARD M. LEONARD,
Secretary

Editor's Miscellany [Continued from page 2]

value which some people place on the wilderness. It is a real thing to those who have allowed themselves time to appreciate it and that number will grow. . . . We must be intransigent in our efforts to preserve the wilderness which we now have. Its area is none too large . . .

Coming up. Too optimistically we have assumed that the word *wilderness* would bring a single connotation to the minds of Club members. For most members, this is apparently true, but others conjure up the forbidding wilderness through which Moses led the Children of Israel. At the San Bernardino hearing, several persons quoted the "render accessible" part of the Club purposes at us, and asked why we should object to roads, tramways, and resorts.

For a lucid explanation of the function of wilderness, we are calling on the late Robert Marshall, and are presenting his "The Problem of the Wilderness" in the April magazine number. It is a first-rate article.

Meanwhile, are there any objections to the development of Mineral King or the Mammoth Lakes region (neither of them a wilderness) as first-class ski resort areas?

New Office Hours. The principal office of the Sierra Club, at 1050 Mills Tower, San

Francisco, have been changed to 9:00 A.M. to 5:20 P.M., five days a week. This will make it easier for members to visit or telephone after their own offices have closed. Since most San Francisco offices are now on a five-day week, there has been little activity in the Sierra Club office on Saturdays and the office will therefore no longer be open on Saturday.

Contents. The Table of Contents for the three latest magazine numbers of the *Bulletin* (1945-47) is now ready for mailing upon request of persons wishing to bind their copies. The editor wishes to apologize here for an error that will probably perplex librarians for decades to come. Volume 31, Number 6, the latest magazine number, was mislabeled "7."

Marin Conservation League. A hand for its attainments is merited by this League, which has done so well in carrying out its statement, "To preserve and develop the natural assets of Marin County." Among other accomplishments a state park (Camp Taylor, 2,300 acres) has been created through its activities; and three beaches have been preserved as county parks, one of which (Shell Beach) they expect will serve as the nucleus for another state park. From little acorns of Marin grow the great oaks of California!

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